



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TRENTON, NJ 08625
(609) 984-1900

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

LT. GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO
Secretary of State

**PETITION FILING INSTRUCTION SHEET
2015 PRIMARY ELECTION
NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The New Jersey Division of Elections accepts petitions on behalf of the Secretary of State, who serves as the Chief Election Official of the State of New Jersey. Set forth below are qualifications for candidacy along with an overview of the statutory requirements for submitting petitions to conform with Title 19, the Election Laws of New Jersey.

Candidate petitions may be filed in person or mailed, but must be received by the deadline date, on or before 4:00 p.m. on March 30th, 2015. (N.J.S.A. 19:23-14)

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph 2, to qualify as a candidate for the office of New Jersey General Assembly, you must meet the following qualifications:

- shall have attained the age of 21 years by the day of the swearing into office
- a United States citizen
- a resident of New Jersey for two years as of the day of the General Election
- a resident of the legislative district for one year as of the day of the General Election
- a legal voter by the day the petition is filed

Each candidate should read and follow petition instructions carefully in order to ensure that the petition is accepted for filing for the office of New Jersey General Assembly.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:23-5 et seq., petitions must meet the following requirements:

- Contain the signatures of at least 100 voters in the Legislative District (N.J.S.A. 19:23-8);
- Candidate's name and address must appear on each petition (N.J.S.A. 19:23-7);
- If Candidate's are requesting that their names be bracketed, their names must appear the same on all petition booklets (N.J.S.A. 19:23-18);
- Candidate must sign a **"Certificate of Acceptance"** and an **"Oath of Allegiance."** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15) **Note: Oath of allegiance must be notarized;**
- Candidate must sign a **"Disclosure Statement of Criminal Conviction"** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15);

(continued on next page)

- The circulator/witness is the person who collected the signatures on the petition and must complete and sign the affidavit where indicated. If the same person circulates more than one petition, he/she must complete the Affidavit of Circulator in each booklet. **Note: Affidavit must be notarized** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-11);
- The circulator/witness does not have to be a signer of the petition but must be a registered voter in the State whose party affiliation is of the same political party named in the petition (N.J.S.A. 19:23-11);
- Insert your designation/slogan which must not exceed six (6) words "...no such designation or slogan shall include or refer to the name of any person or any incorporated association of this State unless the written consent of such person or incorporated association of this State has been filed with the petition of nomination of such candidate or group of candidates" (N.J.S.A. 19:23-17).

The person submitting a petition will be asked to provide the day and evening telephone numbers of the candidate, in order to notify him or her if a challenge to the petition is filed. The daytime phone number will also be used for public information purposes, i.e., press/citizen inquiry.

This information sheet is not meant to encompass all of the statutory and constitutional requirements for filing petitions, but is to be used only as a guide. If you have any additional questions, you should seek legal counsel.

Completed candidate petitions can either be hand-delivered or mailed to the addresses listed below.

Office Location :
225 W. State Street, 5th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Mailing Address for United States Postal Service:
P.O. Box 304
Trenton, NJ 08625-0304

Delivery address for all other carriers, i.e., UPS, FedEx, etc.:
225 W. State Street, 5th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Schedule a candidate petition filing appointment:

In an effort to improve the petition filing experience, the Division of Elections offers petition filers an opportunity to schedule an appointment prior to the petition filing date. Scheduling an appointment will improve the petition filing process and help reduce the time spent filing your petition.

We suggest filing your petition as early as possible!

Schedule an appoint by visiting <http://nj.gov/state/elections/candidate-petitions.html>.